

CLAIMS

1. Method of supplying power to a motor-vehicle electric-starter contactor (10) in which, on a circuit  
5 (T1, B, 20, 25) for supplying power to the contactor (10), an effective-power-supply signal (R1, R2, R3) is provided having a chosen profile, characterised in that, on the power-supply circuit (T1, B, 20, 25), a supplementary signal (T, R4) is also provided having a  
10 shape which is chosen in order to facilitate the identification of the profile of the effective-power-supply signal (R1, R2, R3).
2. Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that the supplementary signal (T, R4) is chosen so as  
15 to have no mechanical effect on the contactor (10).
3. Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that the supplementary signal (T, R4) is a pulse train.
4. Method according to Claim 1, characterised in that the supplementary signal (T, R4) features a chosen  
20 duration (T) specific to the profile of the effective-power-supply signal (R1, R2, R3).
5. Method according to Claim 3, characterised in that the supplementary signal (T, R4) exhibits a chosen number of pulses specific to the profile of the effective-power-supply signal (R1, R2, R3).  
25
6. Method according to Claim 3, characterised in that the pulse train (T, R4) exhibits a ratio of duration between a high state and a low state which is specific to the profile of effective current strength.
- 30 7. Method according to Claim 3, characterised in that the pulse train (T, R4) constitutes a coding the high states of which exhibit at least two different durations.
8. Method according to Claim 3, characterised in  
35 that the pulse train (T, R4) exhibits a frequency (R4)

9. Method according to Claim 3, characterised in that the pulse train (T, R4) exhibits a chosen frequency modulation.

10 11. Device for supplying power to a motor-vehicle  
starter contactor (10), including a circuit (T1, B, 20,  
25) for supplying power to the contactor (10) and means  
(25, T1) for providing, on this circuit (T1, B, 20,  
25), an effective-power-supply signal (R1, R2, R3) hav-  
15 ing a chosen profile, characterised in that it also in-  
cludes means (25, T1) for providing, on the power-  
supply circuit (T1, B, 20, 25), a supplementary signal  
(T, R4) having a shape which is chosen in order to fa-  
cilitate the identification of the chosen profile of  
20 the effective-power-supply signal (R1, R2, R3).